

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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Inside *Crystal*, Thomas Schütte's installation at Clark Art Institute.

ART + EXHIBITIONS

Check Out the View from Clark Art Institute's New Installation

A site-specific installation by Thomas Schütte takes advantage of the Clark Art Institute's bucolic campus

At the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts, a faceted, silvery new installation now perches atop a grassy hill behind the museum. The location is a favorite for hikers and picnickers who come to take in views of the bucolic Berkshire landscape, and the artwork is sure to provoke questions from casual strollers—which is probably just what its creator, the German artist Thomas Schütte, desired. Named *Crystal*, the 19.5-foot-tall angular structure is clad in zinc-plated copper on the outside, lined with pine boards inside, and open on one end to frame a breathtaking perspective of nature.



The pavilion sits on top of a hill on the Clark campus.

“It’s not readily viewable when you approach the campus, but when you get up the hill, it becomes this thing that draws you in,” says museum curator David Breslin. The hope, he adds, is that the installation will encourage visitors to explore more of Clark’s campus, which includes 140 acres of woodland, during the day or even at night. The artist “likes the idea that the high school kids can go up there at midnight and jump in,” says Breslin, “and that the dutiful hikers who come up at seven in the morning have a place to sit down for a few minutes.”

Crystal is scheduled to remain in place through the summer of 2018. The Clark Art Institute, 225 South Street, Williamstown, Massachusetts; clarkart.edu